An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

November 2016

The Examiner

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Irene Hunting, Deputy Associate Superintendent

Fall 2016 AzMERIT EOC

Important Dates for Fall 2016 AzMERIT EOC Test Administration

November 3	Last day to place an additional order for Special Paper Version tests
November 18	Last day to complete Writing Test Last day to record Writing responses into DEI
December 2	Last day to complete Reading and Math Tests Last day to record Reading and Math responses into DEI
December 2	Last day to create rosters for teachers to view Fall 2016 student results
December 16	Student results will be available in ORS
January 18	Paper reports will be delivered to districts/charters
February 3	Last day to report corrections to AIR

Fall 2016 Rostering Students
Student rostering in TIDE is open now through December 2 for districts/charters that want to roster students and teachers for Fall 2016 reporting. Do not do any rostering for Spring 2017 testing at this time. Information for Spring Rostering will be available in the February issue of *The Examiner*.

Fall 2016 AzMERIT Results
Online reports will be available in ORS on December 16. The paper Family Reports will be delivered to districts/charters on January 18. The last day to report corrections is February 3, 2017.

What's new for Spring 2017 AzMERIT?

We are very excited to announce that about 80% of schools and approximately 80% of students are expected to participate in computer-based AzMERIT testing in Spring 2017. This is twice as many from AzMERIT's first administration in Spring 2015. For those schools that are not yet computer-based, the Technology Readiness Tool will remain open through Wednesday, November 16 for submission of technology inventory and testing mode selection. Schools that have sufficient technical capacity are strongly encouraged to opt for computer-based testing.

What's new for Spring 2017 AzMERIT? - continued

NEW AzMERIT Sample Tests
NEW Sample Tests will be available on the AzMERIT portal at azmeritportal.org in January. There will be a sample test for each grade/subject combination and for each EOC. These sample tests will be approximately one-half length tests, will match the test blueprint, and will include the same item types included on the operational tests. Answer keys will be provided in an ancillary "Guide to the Sample Test" document.

Desmos Calculators
AzMERIT will transition to the Desmos calculator, an industry-standard online calculator. **The Desmos calculator is free for everyone to use, and can be accessed anytime at the Desmos website***:* **https://www.desmos.com/.**

EOC Selection Process
ADE will prepopulate EOC student enrollments in TIDE based on how EOC testing is identified in AzEDS. Your local Student Information System (SIS) should include an option to identify which courses align to an AzMERIT EOC test. Local SISs will upload that course information and the student enrollments for those courses to AzEDs. For more information on the exact process, please contact your Student Information System (SIS) vendor.

Grade 3 Reading and Math CBT Test Window
Grade 3 Test Window for computer-based schools will close 1 week earlier to allow an earlier return of Grade 3 results. The computer-based test window for Grade 3 Reading and Math is March 27 – April 28. The Writing for Grade 3 must still be completed by April 21.

Grade 3-8 Reading and Math
ADE will no longer require that the Reading and Math test be given on the same day. For ELA tests, the Writing must still be given before any Reading test sessions.

Data Entry Interface (DEI) & Special Paper Version Tests
The Data Entry Interface (DEI) is a new system that will be used to record all Special Paper Version test responses.

Details about Special Paper Versions

- **For Computer-Based Schools**, Special Paper Version tests include Braille, Large Print paper tests, and regular print test booklets based on the students IEP or 504.

- **For Paper-Based Schools**, Special Paper Version tests include the Braille and Large Print tests based on students IEP or 504.

Any school that requests an additional order for a Special Paper Version test must record student responses into the DEI prior to returning the Special Paper Version test booklet to MI.

If you have any questions about AzMERIT, please email AzMERIT@azed.gov.

Achievement Assessments – continued November 2016

Data Entry Interface (DEI) & Special Paper Version Tests - continued

Details about DEI

- The staff member who will enter the student responses in DEI must have an appropriate role in TIDE and also complete the TA certification.

- The only students who will be visible in DEI are the students with a Special Paper Version test accommodation identified in TIDE.

- Students at a computer-based school, who have a Special Paper Version accommodation marked in TIDE, will not have access to the regular online test.

All Special Paper Version tests will be returned to MI as a nonscorable test booklets per the directions in the *Special Paper Version Test Administrator Directions* provided in the Special Paper Version Test Kit. Students who received a Special Paper Version test but do not have their responses recorded in DEI **will not receive test results.**

Spring 2017 - AzMERIT & AIMS Science Test Windows

March 13 – April 21	**AIMS Science** (Grades 4, 8, and HS)
March 27 – April 7	**AzMERIT PBT Test Window**
March 27 – March 28	Writing must be completed within the first 2 days of the window
April 7	Last day to complete Reading and Math
March 27 – May 4	**AzMERIT CBT Test Window and DEI Data Entry**
April 21	Last day to complete Writing Test Last day to record Writing responses into DEI
April 28	Last day to complete Grade 3 Test Last day to record Grade 3 responses into DEI
May 4	Last day to complete Reading and Math Tests (except Grade 3) Last day to record Reading and Math Tests responses into DEI (except Grade 3)

Achievement Pre-Test Training for AzMERIT and AIMS Science

The mandatory Achievement Pre-Test Training for AzMERIT and AIMS Science will be available online, **January 3 - 13, 2017**. There are 4 training sessions:

- District Test Coordinator Responsibilities
- Test Administrator Responsibilities
- Spring 2017 AzMERIT Test Administration
- Spring 2017 AIMS Science Test Administration

If you have any questions about AzMERIT, please email AzMERIT@azed.gov.

Achievement Pre-Test Training for AzMERIT and AIMS Science - continued

The District Test Coordinator Responsibilities and Test Administrator Responsibilities sessions only have to be viewed yearly. If you viewed these two sessions as part of Pre-Test Training for Fall 2016 AzMERIT testing, you are not required to view again. The Spring 2017 AzMERIT and AIMS Science Test Administration sessions must be viewed by all Test Coordinators at this time since they have specific information for the current spring administrations.

The link for the training will be emailed on January 3. After viewing each session the verification form must be completed.

Spring 2017 AzMERIT Tasks

The Spring 2017 District Test Coordinator Important Tasks Checklist is here and available on the ADE website. Please download the Tasks Checklist and have it available during the Spring AzMERIT test administration for easy reference. Below is the list of tasks that need to be completed before the end of January. Details regarding each of these tasks are included in the checklist.

Important Dates for Spring 2017 AzMERIT

Available now	Task 1 – Add/correct/delete users in TIDE
Available now	Task 2 - Download Secure Browser
January 3 - 27	Task 3 – Review and Verify Contact Information
January 3 - 27	Task 4 - View students in TIDE
January 3 - 27	Task 5 - Select Special Paper Version test accommodations

Spring 2017 AIMS Science Tasks

Important Dates for Spring 2017 AIMS Science

January 9 - 20	AIMS Science Participation Counts Window
January 9 - 20	AIMS Science Pre-ID Label selection for Cohort 2020 students

If you have any questions about AzMERIT, please email AzMERIT@azed.gov.

Participation Counts Window – January 9-20

The following steps must be completed in *PearsonAccess* by 5:00 PM, MST, Friday, January 20. The *AIMS User's Guide* has step-by-stop instructions for completing these three steps. The *AIMS User's Guide* will be posted on *PearsonAccess* by January 9.

- Verify Contact Information & Shipping Address. Spring 2017 AIMS Science test materials will be shipped to this address.
    - o If corrections are needed, contact Mary Pat Wood at MaryPat.Wood@azed.gov.

- Verify and update participation counts for each school within the district/charter. See below for guidance on determining participation counts.

    - o For a school that does not have any students in Grades 4, 8, and high school, verify that the counts are listed as "0".

    - o If a school is not listed that will be testing, contact Mary Pat Wood.

- Mark status as "Complete" for each school.

    - o **All** schools within the district/charter must be marked as "Complete."

Determining Participation Counts

- o **For Grades 4 and 8,** the participation count is the same as enrollment.
  Preliminary participation counts in *PearsonAccess* will be based on AzEDS enrollments.

- o **For High School**, the participation count is the number of Cohort 2019 (typically sophomores) students who must test on science **plus** the number of Cohort 2020 students (typically freshmen) who are opting to take the test early.
  Preliminary participation counts in *PearsonAccess* will be based on the number of Cohort 2019 students who do not have a valid Spring 2016 AIMS Science score.

Student Pre-ID Labels – Extraction Date January 20

Grade 4 and Grade 8 - Pre-ID Labels will be provided to schools based on AzEDS enrollment as of January 20.

AIMS HS - Pre-ID Labels will be provided for students in Cohort 2019 who did not test on AIMS HS Science last year and all students in Cohort 2020 who were identified in the Student Selection Application by January 20.

Pre-ID Label Selection for Cohort 2020 students - January 9 – January 20

Use the label selection application in ADEConnect to identify Cohort 2020 students who are opting to take the Spring 2017 AIMS HS Science Test. Students identified in this application, by January 20, as participating in the Spring 2017 AIMS HS Science Test will receive Pre-ID Labels.

If you have any questions about AzMERIT, please email AzMERIT@azed.gov.

Alternate Assessments

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

Important dates for Alternate Assessment

	Online Trainings	Identify Eligible Students in Student Selector Application	Testing Materials Delivered	Testing Window	Reporting Portal
AIMS-A	Nov. 9 - Dec. 9, 2016	October 27 - December 1, 2016	Feb. 1 - 14, 2017	Feb 15 - Mar 31, 2017	June 2017
MSAA	March 2017			March 27 - May 12, 2017	TBD

Important dates are posted on the Assessment Calendar

Preparing for AIMS A Science and MSAA 2017 Administration

AIMS A Science Training for District/Charter Alternate Assessment TCs
AIMS A Science Online training will be available beginning November 9. TCs with schools participating in the 2017 AIMS A Science administration must complete the training no later than December 9, 2016. A delay in meeting this timeline could result in your access being blocked to the AIMS A Science Application. All TCs will be sent an email with instructions and a link to access the online training.

Upon completion of the training, TCs will also be required to submit a survey before access to a certificate of completion is generated for the TC to print. This will serve as documentation of completion of the required TC training. Additional instructions will be provided in a separate email for this training.

Test Coordinators will sign the *Assessment Test Security Agreement for Superintendent/District Test Coordinator*. There is one form for all District Test Coordinators. This form must be signed by the District Superintendent/Charter Representative as well and can be found here.

The TC is responsible for training all AIMS A Science Test Administrators on the testing procedures for administering the test **before** the test window opens (February 15, 2017).The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators must also collect all Test Administrators' signed *Test Security Agreement Forms* and maintain them on file for 6 years. One Alternate Assessment test security agreement will cover both Alternate Assessments for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Access for TCs and TAs to the MSAA System will not begin until March. MSAA Online Training modules for TCs and TAs will be available in March. More information will come later.

Identifying Eligible Students

Assessment determinations/eligibility decisions are made annually at the time of each student's IEP. Last year a very large number of students were added at the last minute to the AIMS A Science and MSAA systems. Participation and Eligibility decisions for these students should be made early in the school year. The MSAA Participation and Eligibility criteria include aligned instruction to the state's content standards.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities should not just be newly qualifying for Alternate Assessments unless the student is in Grade 3, new to special education, or new to the state. Eligible students participate in AIMS A Science (Grades 4, 8, and 10 only) and MSAA ELA and Math (Grades 3 through 8, and 11). Combined Alternate Assessment Eligibility can be found here.

Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators will identify eligible students for both AIMS A Science and MSAA using the **Student Selector Application in ADEConnect** during the window of October 27 – December 1, 2016.

There have been two changes to the Student Selector Application. Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators will identify any eligible student:

- who is deaf, blind, or deaf/blind for MSAA and/or
- who require the No Response/Scribe accommodation for **AIMS A Science**. (The separate Excel spreadsheet, No Response Option form, is no longer required).

All students must be entered into the Student Selector Application by the deadline of December 1, 2016. Any student not identified in the Student Selector Application during this window could greatly impact your PEA's yearly calculation for exceeding the 1% Cap and the 95% Participation Rate. Please call the Alternate Assessment unit for extenuating circumstances.

1% Cap

ESSA will be in full effect for the 2017-18 school year including one significant change for Alternate Assessment. In the past, NCLB allowed PEAs to _count as proficient_ up to 1% of students participating in the state's alternate assessment with no limit on the number of students allowed to participate in the state's alternate assessment.

The language in ESSA focuses on participation and allows states to _administer_ the alternate assessment to **no more** _than 1%_ of the students who participate in statewide testing. Under current proposed regulations, **states** expecting to exceed this 1% cap must request a waiver least 90 days before the first day of the test window and PEAs will be required to submit an action plan to meet this new requirement. For more information on 1% Cap, please see the most current PowerPoint and webinar recording posted here under the Upcoming WEBINARS tab.

AIMS A Science Performance Tasks Materials

February 1 - 14, 2017, all test materials will be sent to the TCs. Test materials will be sent based on the eligible students identified in the Student Selector Application. Test materials are sent based on class sets, not individual students.

If you have any questions regarding Alternate Assessments, please email AssessingSWDs@azed.gov.

MSAA Accommodations

Remind all teachers and IEP teams to document accommodations used by students in the area of writing, specifically Scribe and Transcription and a paper-based administration.

Table 12. MSAA Accommodations

Accommodations	Access Information
Assistive Technology (AT) *Student may use assistive technology devices for viewing, responding to, or interacting with the test items. The student and TA should use the AT device with the sample items to ensure that it functions properly with the MSAA System. The MSAA System supports various AT devices, such as alternate keyboard, switches and hub, head mouse, etc.*	Refer to MSAA System User Guide for Test Administrators for information about: • Compatibility of MSAA System with Assessment Features and • Compatibility of MSAA System with Assistive Technology Devices.
Paper Version of Item/s *The use of a paper-based presentation of test item/s is a state-specific policy. Refer to Appendix A. State Specific Information.*	PDF version of test item/s is available in the MSAA System. All printed assessment materials must be given to the TC for secure shredding upon completion of the test. (Please refer to Appendix A. State Specific Information.)
Scribe *This accommodation may be used for Selected-Response or Writing Constructed-Response Items.*	Refer to: • Appendix B • MSAA System User Guide for TAs • ELA (Reading/Writing) DTA
Sign Language (e.g., ASL, PSE, SEE) *TA may communicate passages, items and response options using sign language to student.*	

Accessing MSAA Instructional Supports and Practice Site Information

MSAA Instructional Supports and Resources are available on the NCSC Wiki site:
wiki.ncscpartners.org/index.php/Main_Page

Sample MSAA Items can now be accessed on the NCSC Practice site: https://www.ncscassessment.org/practice. You may receive a security certificate error - it is acceptable continue to this site even though it is "not recommended."

It is recommended that teachers view the sample items and also try out the MSAA Test Features with their students prior to the test window opening.

If you have any questions regarding Alternate Assessments, please email AssessingSWDs@azed.gov.

Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment

Important Dates for AZELLA Reassessment

Date	Task
Nov. 2 – 18	AZELLA District Test Coordinator Spring 2017 Reassessment Test Training
Nov. 16	Data Extract for Pre-ID Labels
Nov. 30 – Dec. 14	Confirm Participation Counts for Reassessment in *PearsonAccess*
Jan. 23 – 26	Reassessment Test Materials Delivery
Jan. 27 – Mar. 10	Additional Order Window for Reassessment Testing Materials
Feb. 6 – Mar. 24	Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Testing Window

AZELLA District Test Coordinator Reassessment Training

The mandatory training for the upcoming *Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Test* will be available beginning Wednesday, November 2, and must be completed by Friday, November 18. AZELLA District Test Coordinators will receive an email on Wednesday, November 2, with login information. District Test Coordinators who do not complete the training by November 18 will be locked out of *PearsonAccess* until the training is completed.

Only the designated AZELLA District Test Coordinator will have access to this training. It is the District Test Coordinator's responsibility to provide appropriate training to school test coordinators and test administrators.

Reassessment Pre-ID Labels

Do **NOT** register students in *PearsonAccess* for the *Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Test*. Pre-ID Labels will be provided for all students expected to participate in the *Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment* based on **data in AzEDS** at the close of business on Wednesday, November 16. All students who qualify for ELL services, even if they have been withdrawn from services by parent request, should be submitted to AzEDS in time to have passed integrity by November 16.

While ADE makes every effort to provide schools with the appropriate Pre-ID Labels, the list of students receiving Pre-ID Labels will not always match the list of students required to participate in the *Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment*.

AZELLA - continued

Verify Reassessment Participation Counts

AZELLA District Test Coordinators will need to verify and revise, if necessary, Participation Counts for the *Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Test* using *PearsonAccess* during the window of November 30 – December 14. Test Coordinators must also verify their shipping address during this window.

Test materials will be shipped to the address in *PearsonAccess* based on the participation counts as of December 14 (plus an overage). Directions for verifying shipping address and participation counts are included in the Reassessment Training.

Reassessment Test Materials Delivery

Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Test materials will arrive during the week of January 23, 2017. It is important to inventory these materials upon receipt and confirm that there are sufficient materials to test all students requiring reassessment.

Additional Order Window for Reassessment

The Additional Order Window for the Spring 2017 *AZELLA Reassessment Test* will open on January 27. If after inventorying received materials any additional materials are needed to test, place an Additional Order in *PearsonAccess*. All Additional Orders require justification. Email justification to AZELLA@azed.gov.

Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Test Window

The Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment testing window is February 6 – March 24. Please plan your testing times so that ALL of your students requiring a Reassessment Test are testing during these 7 weeks. During this window, all ELL students and all ELL students withdrawn from ELL services at parent request must be reassessed.

Mid-year AZELLA Placement Testing (ELL to Mainstream)

The window for Mid-year AZELLA Placement Testing for qualified ELL students is November 21 – December 16, 2016 (Scoring Cycle 07). A Teacher Referral Form (found here) is required. Complete information about the Mid-year AZELLA Placement Testing can be found at http://www.azed.gov/assessment/2016/10/24/midyearazellapt/.

Students who score "Proficient" for their Overall Proficiency Level are to be moved to mainstream classes and should NOT participate in the Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment testing.

Students who score an Overall Proficiency Level of less than Proficient on the Mid-year AZELLA Placement Test will remain in ELL classes and must participate in the Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment testing.

Questions Concerning Whether or Not to Test a Student

If you have questions about whether or not a student needs a Placement Test, qualifies to participate in the Mid-year AZELLA Placement Testing, and/or must participate in the Spring 2017 AZELLA Reassessment Testing, please send an email to the AZELLA Team at AZELLA@azed.gov with the student's SSID and your question. Please do not test a student "just in case."

AZELLA Stages III-V Computer-Based Testing – Coming Spring 2018

The Stages III – V, AZELLA will be moving to an online platform for the Spring 2018 Reassessment Test administration. ADE has begun discussions with AZELLA district coordinators on how best to prepare for this change. One of the most common recommendations is to begin conversations early with district IT personnel. Even though we don't yet have all of the details regarding the technology requirement for the computer-based AZELLA, beginning conversations now within the district will help in identifying the key personnel and building a transition team. Thoughtful planning and scheduling will facilitate a smooth transition.

The Speaking test will be administered on the computer rather than on the phone when Stages III-V move to computer-based testing. The computer-based AZELLA Speaking test will require headsets with microphones. Planning discussions should also include acquisition of Noise Cancelling and Uni-Directional microphone headsets. Pearson recommends the *Logitech Headset H390*. This model has performed the best with multiple testers taking the test simultaneously in Pearson's computer lab setting.

Be sure to provide ELL students with practice on computers so they are comfortable using computers.

OELAS Updates

2016 OELAS Conference

Cultivating Language for Life

December 7 – 9, 2016

J W Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa

The 2016 OELAS Conference is sponsored by the Office of English Language Acquisition Services unit of the Arizona Department of Education and will be held December 7-9, 2016 at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, Arizona. This conference will provide meaningful professional development opportunities for educators of ELLs, designed to help meet the unique challenges faced in the Structured English Immersion or mainstream classroom. There will also be sessions geared toward administrators who support, coach, guide, and assess within an English language acquisition program in the state of Arizona. Sessions will be presented by both national and local experts, and participants will gain information and skills that can be put to practical use.

The ADE AZELLA Assessment Team will be providing a session on December 7, 2016, about updates for the Spring 2017 Reassessment Test administration, including a preview of new item types and a look at how the new Spring 2018 Reassessment Test online administration might be different than the existing paper-pencil test. Following the presentation, Brenda Wright, Gabriela Finn, and Marlene Johnston will answer your AZELLA questions and welcome your feedback.

To register or find out more about this event, please go to http://www.azed.gov/oelasconf.

For more information, please contact Candis Middlebrook at 602-364-1801 or email her at candis.middlebrook@azed.gov.

NAEP and International Assessments

NAEP 2017 Participating Schools

NAEP 2017
Assessment Window: January 30 – March 10, 2017

- Thank you for competing the Submit Student List activity due Oct. 31!
- School Coordinators and Principals will have access to their List of Selected Students in early December on www.mynaep.com
- School Coordinators begin and complete their Pre-assessment Activities on www.mynaep.com as soon as they receive their List of Selected Students.
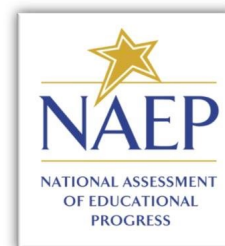
International Assessment Pilots 2017
Assessment Window: March to May 2017 (specific dates TBD)
(A very small sample of schools nationwide. Arizona will be included in PISA.)

Recent NAEP Results Releases
NAEP 2015 Science Results for Grade 4 and Grade 8 were released October 2016.

- Arizona Leads the Nation in Fourth Grade Growth on NAEP Science Assessment
- Please find the complete online results here.

Upcoming NAEP Results Releases
Look for an email invitation to a simulcast press web conference as soon as details are completed.

- NAEP 2015 National Indian Education Study (NIES) results TBD (perhaps this winter)
- All releases will be posted to the NAEP page at http://www.azed.gov/assessment/naep/.

WHAT IS NAEP?
The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.
First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing.

The schools and students participating in NAEP represent other schools and students across the country. NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation. NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement at the national and state level only.

For more information about NAEP, visit: http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard

Follow NAEP on social media:

If you have any questions regarding NAEP, please contact Shelly Pollnow, Ed.D., Director of the NAEP Program and International Assessments for Arizona at phone: 602.542.5031 or email: NAEP@azed.gov